Promotion of SSI

3751. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had started any Investment Grant Scheme to promote small scale industries and if so, the State-wise number of industrial units benefited thereby;

(b) whether this scheme is inoperative since 30 September, 1988 and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government propose to provide the grant to those entrepreneurs who had taken effective steps to set up industries under this scheme upto 30 September, 1988 to whom the grant was not sanctioned and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (c) Under the Central Investment Subsidy Scheme, 1971 entrepreneurs setting up industrial units in centrally declared backward areas were eligible for graded rates of subsidy on their fixed investment. The scheme was applicable to small scale units as well. The number of beneficiaries State-wise under the scheme is not maintained centrally. The Scheme was in operation till 30-9-1988. After the withdrawal of the scheme, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations were advised that payments made upto 30-9-1989 (for non-manufacturing activities) and upto 31-12-1989 (for manufacturing activities) provided the projects were approved by the State Level Committee/District Level Committee on or before 30-9-1988 would be eligible for reimbursement by the Central Government.

Government have also announced a growth centre scheme in June, 1988 for development of backward areas to be implemented during the VIII Five Year Plan period.

Fixing of Quota for Sugar

3752. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to fix the quota of Sugar at 500 gms. per unit and to distribute the sugar in 500 gms. poly packs in order to ensure proper weight and good quality;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the difficulties thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Central Government makes bulk allocation of levy sugar quota to the State Governments and UT Administrations. Allocations of levy sugar is made on a uniform norm of 425 grams per capita monthly availability on the projected population as on 1-10-1986. Government has decided to allot 5% ad-hoc increase in the allocations of levy sugar from August, 1991 till December, 1991.

Distribution of levy sugar within the States/UT Administrations is the responsibility of the State Governments and UT Administrations.

Engineers of National Fertilizers Limited to Baharain

3753. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement for sending twenty engineers to Bahrain was reached between National Fertilizers Limited and G.P.I.C., Bahrain in 1988-89; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of engineers sent to Bahrain under this agreement and the period of their stay there;

(c) the reasons for calling them back before time and the amount of loss in foreign exchange suffered by the country as a result thereof;

(d) whether these engineers were compelled to give half of their salaries to National Fertilizers Limited;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether any action in the matter has been taken against the persons found responsible; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) No direct agreement was signed between National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) and Gulf Petrochemicals Industries Company (GPIC), Bahrain. However, a contract was signed between Eigneers India Limited (EIL) and NFL on 10th November 1989 for assignment of NFL personnel to GPIC, Bahrain for a period of one year depending upon their requirement. A total of five Engineers/Chemists were deputed to GPIC under the contract out of which three officers stayed with them for more than a year, one stayed for a period of five months and one for one month.

(c) None of the deputed officers were called back by NFL. GPIC, however, sent back two of them for their own reasons before completing one year.

(d) No Sir. All the employees received their basic salary in India in full. In addition, each of the employee concerned was to receive BD 400 p.m. as living allowance along with free furnished accommodation, free medical facility and conveyance in Bahrain during the period of their deputation.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[*English*]

T.V. Transmitter at Pathanamthitta in Kerala

3754. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a T.V. transmitter at Pathanamthitta district in Kerala;

(b) whether the Pathanamthitta district is not covered by T.V. transmission from Trivandrum and does not receive the Malayalam programmes; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) A low power (100 W) TV transmitter operating in UHF band has been functioning at Pathanamthitta in Kerala since September, 1989.

(b) and (c) Though the transmitter at Pathanamthitta relays the programmes fed from Delhi via satellite, parts of Pathanamthitta district lie on the fringe of coverage area of the high power TV transmitters at Trivandrum and Cochin which relay regional service programmes in Malayalam in addition to national service. Further expansion of regional service in the uncovered parts of Pathanamthitta district depends upon future availability of resources for the purpose.

Assistance to Kerala under Western Ghats Development Programme

3755. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance given to Kerala in 1990-91 and 1991-92 under the Western Ghats Development Programme for the development of rural areas; and

(b) the achievements made under the programme in rural areas during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) All the programmes under Western Ghats Development Programme in Kerala are implemented in rural areas only. Special Central